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HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
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EXAMINER

LETT, THOMAS J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2625

DATE MAILED: 04/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/001,574

Applicant(s)

SIMPSON ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas J. Lett

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 December 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 October 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see amendment, filed 15 December 2005, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-34 under 35 USC § 102(b) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new grounds of rejection is made in view of Lenz et al (USPub 2001/0053947 A1) in view of Takuwa et al (USPN 6,463,229 B2) under 35 USC § 103(a). As Applicant pointed out in p.012 of Remarks, Lenz does not describe or suggest the conditional spooling of "card processing job data or objects" and Lenz does not teach or suggest disabling processing of a processing job upon a condition that an estimated time duration exceeds a threshold time duration as recited by Claim 1.

2. Applicant's arguments, see amendment, filed 15 December 2005, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 35-37 under 35 USC § 103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new grounds of rejection is made in view of HiKIS (Office World News. "Hitachi Koki: Connecting the Future of Business", Ft. Lauderdale: Jun 2000. Vol. 28) in view of Takuwa et al (USPN 6,463,229 B2) under 35 USC § 103(a).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over Lenz et al (USPub 2001/0053947 A1) in view of Takuwa et al (USPN 6,463,229 B2).

With respect to claim 1, Lenz et al disclose a method of relieving competition between processing jobs sharing a production device (identification card personalization device 10 containing a web browser, para. 0012), said method comprising the steps of:

a. accessing from a user's browser a destination service representing at least one production device (web client 20 can access data on a network of various devices, para. 0012, lines 10-13);

b. retrieving said user's imaging information by said destination service (web client 20 can access data on a network of various devices, para. 0012, lines 10-13);

c. selecting among production options (can choose between printing and/or lamination, para. 0013, lines 1-5) provided by said destination service for a processing job to process said imaging information using said at least one production device;

d. estimating the time duration required to process said processing job using said production device with said selected production options (print job status information can include start time and estimated completion time for all printers completing the print job, para. 0027, lines 9-16).

Lenz et al do not disclose comparing said estimated time duration with a previously determined threshold time duration, such that:

f. if said estimated time duration exceeds said previously determined threshold time duration, then disabling processing of said processing job by said production device; otherwise

g. if said estimated time duration does not exceed said previously determined threshold time duration, then enabling processing of said processing job by said production device .

Takuwa teaches of an image forming apparatus that interrupts processing of a job if a threshold print time is exceeded (col. 4, lines 27-33) (**Step f**); otherwise, if the 15 minutes is not exceeded, the print job is allowed to finish processing during its allotted exclusive use time period (col. 4, lines 11-16) (**Step g**).

Lenz et al and Takuwa et al are analogous art because they are from the similar problem solving area of print job management. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add the exclusive time use feature of Takuwa et al to the web-based printer of Lenz et al in order to obtain a web-based printer for managing documents. The motivation for doing so would be to manage competing print jobs.

With respect to claim 2, Lenz et al disclose a method of claim 1 wherein said user is allowed to perform selecting step c. and estimating step d. iteratively (Examiner notes that the webpage 44 would obviously allow a user the discretion to manage the print job iteratively).

With respect to claim 3, Lenz et al disclose a method of claim 1 wherein said user is allowed to perform selecting step c. and estimating step d. sequentially after

disabling step f (Examiner notes that the webpage 44 obviously allows a user the discretion to manage the print job selectively).

With respect to claim 4, Lenz et al disclose a method of claim 1 further comprising displaying a message to said user after disabling step f (Lenz et al disclose that server 14 of the system provides publishing of data to the operator such as illustrations and instructions, para. 0030).

With respect to claim 5, Lenz et al disclose a method of claim 1 further comprising if said processing is disabled in disabling step f., then providing said user with a link to an alternative production device (web client 20 can access data on a network of various devices, para. 0012, lines 10-13 and a user can select an alternate device to spool a print job, para. 0028).

With respect to claim 6, Lenz et al disclose a method of claim 1 wherein said previously determined threshold time duration is set by an administrator (Examiner notes that the web server 14 can provide security services and can process driver's licenses and access cards which are features that would be set by an administrator or someone with high access rights, para. 0035).

With respect to claim 7, Lenz et al disclose a method of claim 1 wherein said previously determined threshold time duration differs according to differing temporal periods (it is inherent that since the job status information is dynamically published on webpage 44 (para. 0027), the system of Lenz et al can compare the job status information with previous job estimation times and is decided by a user of the system).

With respect to claim 8, Lenz et al disclose a method of claim 7 wherein said differing temporal periods are selected from the group consisting of hours of the day, days of the week, and days of the month (it is inherent that since the job status information is dynamically published on webpage 44 (para. 0027), the system of Lenz et al can compare the job status information with previous job estimation times and is inherently decided by a user of the system).

With respect to claim 9, Lenz et al disclose a method of claim 1 wherein said previously determined threshold time is assigned according to said user, such that each of a plurality of differing previously determined threshold time durations is assigned to at least one of a plurality of individual users (it is inherent that since the job status information is dynamically published on webpage 44 (para. 0027), the system of Lenz et al can compare the job status information with previous job estimation times and is inherently decided by a user of the system).

With respect to claim 10, Lenz et al disclose a method of claim 9 wherein each of said plurality of differing previously determined threshold time durations can differ further according to differing temporal periods (it is inherent that since the job status information is dynamically published on webpage 44 (para. 0027), the system of Lenz et al can compare the job status information with previous job estimation times and is inherently decided by a user of the system).

With respect to claim 11, Lenz et al disclose a method of claim 1 further comprising if said processing is disabled in disabling step f., then providing said user an option of reserving a deferred start time for processing of said processing job using said

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production device in accordance with said selected production options, such that if said user opts to reserve a start time, then setting a deferred start time (the server 14 of Lenz et al can serve information such as the start time, indicating that print/laminate jobs can be set, para. 0027, lines 16-21), storing said processing job during a deferral period until said deferred start time occurs (jobs can be stored on the server 14), and then deferred processing said processing job using said production device in accordance with said selected production options (can choose between printing and/or lamination, para. 0013, lines 1-5).

With respect to claim 12, Lenz et al disclose a method of claim 11 wherein said deferred processing job is stored in a medium selected from the group consisting of a hard disk and an image store (identification card is generally formed by combining textual and graphical images received from host applications running on a PC and/or from other input devices, para. 0005) associated with said user's identity (Examiner notes that it is inherent that an identification card system would associate image data (i.e., a driver's photo) and identity data with a user's identity).

With respect to claim 13, Lenz et al disclose a method of claim 11 wherein said setting said deferred start time includes avoiding conflict with unavailable deferred start times of said production device (the server 14 of Lenz et al can serve information such as the start time, indicating that print/laminate jobs can be set, para. 0027, lines 16-21) Additionally, server 14 can publish maintenance, diagnostics and other printer health data for access by a remote site. This capability permits the examination of malfunctioning printers by experts and potential correction of the malfunction from an

internet connected remote site, para. 0026, lines 9-13. Thus a user can diagnose a conflict and resolve such a conflict with an alternative print device.

With respect to claim 14, Lenz et al disclose a method of claim 11 further comprising estimating the resources required to process said processing job using said production device with said selected production options (the system of Lenz can designate resources to more efficiently process print jobs, para. 0028).

With respect to claim 15, Lenz et al disclose a method of claim 14 further comprising reserving quantities of said respective resources required to process said processing job during said deferral period (the system of Lenz can designate resources to more efficiently process print jobs, para. 0028).

With respect to claim 16, Lenz et al disclose a method of claim 15 wherein said reserved resources required to process said processing job are monitored during said deferral period (status of a current job and job history for improved security and identification card tracking is another example of information which can be monitored by server 14. Additionally, where a group of identification card personalization devices 10 are connected to network 12, the current job status of each can be monitored to determine which is available for card processing, para. 0027).

With respect to claim 17, Lenz et al disclose a method of claim 16 wherein during said deferral period a warning message is displayed whenever any of said reserved resources is depleted to a quantity substantially equal to said reserved quantity of said reserved resource (print supplies/consumables are monitored and process user alerts based on their levels, para. 0029).

With respect to claim 18, Lenz et al disclose a method of claim 17 wherein during said deferral period said reserved resources are reported as if said reserved quantities of said reserved resources had already been consumed (where a group of identification card personalization devices 10 are connected to network 12, the current job status of each can be monitored to determine which is available for card processing, para. 0027; print supplies/consumables are also monitored and process user alerts, para. 0029).

With respect to claim 19, Lenz et al disclose a method of claim 17 wherein during said deferral period said warning message is removed if said reserved resources are replenished above said reserved quantity (where a group of identification card personalization devices 10 are connected to network 12, the current job status of each can be monitored to determine which is available for card processing, para. 0027).

With respect to claim 20, Lenz et al disclose a method of claim 1 further comprising if said processing is disabled in disabling step f., then providing said user an option of processing said processing job using said production device, subject to interruption by a subsequent processing job of a subsequent user (the job status information is dynamically published on webpage 44 (para. 0027), and the system of Lenz et al may switch or spool to an alternate device for processing, para. 0028).

With respect to claim 21, Lenz et al disclose a method of claim 20 further comprising dynamically displaying job status including interrupt status at said user's browser (the job status information is dynamically published on webpage 44, para. 0027).

With respect to claim 22, Lenz et al disclose a method of claim 20 wherein said subsequent interrupting processing job is a local processing job of a user local to said production device, such that processing of interrupted processing job resumes after said processing of said local processing job is complete, said local processing job being loaded and unloaded manually at said production device (Examiner notes that a user can resume a print/laminate job at his discretion using server 14 (i.e., after replacing a consumable, or processing a more important ID card, etc.)).

With respect to claim 23, Lenz et al disclose a method of claim 20 wherein said interrupted processing job is stored while interrupted, such that said interrupted processing job is deferred but not canceled (Examiner notes that information is stored on server 14, and can be resumed at the discretion of the user).

With respect to claim 24, Lenz et al disclose a method of claim 20 wherein if said interrupted processing job includes more than one output copy, then said interrupted processing job is allowed to complete the currently processing output copy of said more than one output copy before being interrupted (the system of Lenz can designate resources to more efficiently process print jobs, para. 0028 and portions of print jobs can be processed).

With respect to claim 25, Lenz et al disclose a method of claim 20 further comprising separating output copies of said interrupted processing job from output copies of said interrupting processing job using an operation selected from the group consisting of delivering output copies of said interrupted processing job and said interrupting processing job into separate output bins (the system of Lenz can designate

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resources to more efficiently process print jobs, para. 0028 and portions of print jobs can be processed), delivering output copies into a common output bin (jobs can be processed at one device or several resources at different web addresses), such that output copies of said interrupted processing job are offset relative to output copies of said interrupting processing job, and

delivering output copies into a common output bin, such that output copies of said interrupted processing job are separated relative to output copies of said interrupting processing job by separator sheets bins (the system of Lenz can designate resources to more efficiently process print jobs, portions of print jobs can be processed and jobs can be processed at one device or several resources at different web addresses, para. 0028).

Claim 26, a service claim, is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 1.

Claim 27, a service claim, is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 2.

With respect to claim 28, Lenz et al disclose a destination service of claim 27 further operable to select among production options and to estimate the time duration iteratively after determining that said estimated time duration exceeds said previously determined threshold time duration (it is inherent that since the job status information is dynamically published on webpage 44 (para. 0027), the system of Lenz et al can compare the job status information with previous job estimation times).

With respect to claim 29, Lenz et al disclose a destination service of claim 26 further operable to display a message to said user after determining that said estimated time duration exceeds said previously determined threshold time duration (Lenz et al

disclose that server 14 of the system provides publishing of data to the operator such as illustrations and instructions, para. 0030).

With respect to claim 30, Lenz et al disclose a destination service of claim 26 further operable after determining that said estimated time duration exceeds said previously determined threshold time duration to provide said user with a link to an alternative production device (web client 20 can access data on a network of various devices, para. 0012, lines 10-13 and it is inherent that a user can select an alternate device to spool a print job).

With respect to claim 31, Lenz et al disclose a destination service of claim 26 further operable to determine differing said previously determined threshold time durations according to differing temporal periods (it is inherent that since the job status information is dynamically published on webpage 44 (para. 0027), the system of Lenz et al can compare the job status information with previous job estimation times and is inherently decided by a user of the system).

With respect to claim 32, Lenz et al disclose a destination service of claim 31 wherein said differing temporal periods are selected from the group consisting of hours of the day, days of the week, and days of the month (it is inherent that since the job status information is dynamically published on webpage 44 (para. 0027), the system of Lenz et al can compare the job status information with previous job estimation times and is inherently decided by a user of the system).

With respect to claim 33, Lenz et al disclose a destination service of claim 26 further operable to assign differing said previously determined threshold time durations

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according to user, such that each of a plurality of differing previously determined threshold time durations is assigned to at least one of a plurality of said users (it is inherent that since the job status information is dynamically published on webpage 44 (para. 0027), the system of Lenz et al can compare the job status information with previous job estimation times and is inherently decided by a user of the system).

With respect to claim 34, Lenz et al disclose a destination service of claim 33 wherein each of said plurality of differing previously determined threshold time durations can differ further according to differing temporal periods (it is inherent that since the job status information is dynamically published on webpage 44 (para. 0027), the system of Lenz et al can compare the job status information with previous job estimation times and is inherently decided by a user of the system).

4. Claims 35-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over HiKIS (Office World News. "Hitachi Koki: Connecting the Future of Business", Ft. Lauderdale: Jun 2000. Vol. 28) in view of Takuwa et al (USPN 6,463,229 B2).

With respect to claim 35, HiKIS disclose a system (Hitachi Imaging System) for relieving competition between processing jobs sharing a production device, said system comprising:

a user's browser (standard web browser of the i-printer, col. 1, lines 15-20); and

a destination service (standard web browser of the i-printer can access any web address as well as I-manage to download content, col. 1, lines 32-38) accessible from said user's browser and operable to download content into said user's browser,

said destination service (i-print may access local and remote printer engines for broadcast printing, col. 2, lines 22-26) further representing a production device and operable to arrive at a priority level for each said processing job and

HiKIS does not disclose a system to prevent said processing job from running if said prevented processing job has a certain arrived at priority, such that another processing job can use said production device, said another processing job having an arrived at priority different from said prevented processing job.

Takuwa et al teach of an image forming apparatus that interrupts processing of a job if a threshold print time is exceeded (col. 4, lines 27-33) to allow another job to allow another print job to start.

HiKIS and Takuwa et al are analogous art because they are from the similar problem solving area of printer management. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add the exclusive use feature of Takuwa et al to the web-based printer of HiKIS in order to obtain a web-based printer for managing documents. The motivation for doing so would be to manage competing print jobs.

With respect to claim 36, HiKIS disclose a system of claim 35 further comprising means for web based imaging interconnected with said user's browser and said destination service (standard web browser of the i-printer can access any web address as well as I-manage to download content, col. 1, lines 32-38).

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With respect to claim 37, HiKIS disclose a system of claim 35 wherein said destination service is remote from said user's browser (i-print may access local and remote printer engines for broadcast printing, col. 2, lines 22-26).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas J. Lett whose telephone number is (571)272-7464. The examiner can normally be reached on 7-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly A. Williams can be reached on (571)272-7471. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TJL



MARK WALLERSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER